

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (RUSH)

SUBJECT: DEPUTY SECRETARY'S VISIT TO THAILAND

REF: BANGKOK 2081

1. THE FOLLOWING IS THE PROPOSED DEPARTURE STATEMENT:

"THIS IS MY FIRST VISIT TO SOUTHEAST ASIA SINCE I BE-CAME DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE IN FEBRUARY 1973, I HAVE FOUND IT MOST USEFULE TO MEET ASIAN LEADERS AND HEAR THEIR VIEWS FIRST HAND. MY MEETINGS THIS MORNING WITH PRIME MINISTER SANYA AND FOREIG MINISTER CHARUNPHAN INVOLVED CORDIAL TALKS OVER A WIDE RANGE OF SUBJECTS. I HAVE ALSO MET OTHER TOP GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS SOCIALLY DURING THIS VISIT.

"SOUTHEAST ASIA TODAY IS IN A PERIOD OF CHANGE. GROUPS WHICH WERE FORMERLY FIGHTING ARE NOW TALKING AND IN SOME CASES WORKING TOGETHER. WE HOPE THAT THOSE IN SOME AREAS ARE STILL TRYING TO IMPOSE THEIR WILL ON OTHERS BY MILITARY MEANS WILL GET IN STEP WITH THE SPIRIT OF THE TIMES. REGIONAL COOPERATION IS ON THE INCREASE AS NATIONS SEEK ADDED STRENGTH THROUGH UNITY. I WELCOME THE EMPHASIS THAT IS BEING PLACED ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ON PROVIDING A BETTER LIFE FOR THE PEOPLE OF THIS LONG TROUBLED AREA AND WE IN THE UNITED SATES FULLY SUPPORT THESE TRENDS.

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"WE HAVE WORKED CLOSELY WITH THE GOVERNMENT AND POEPLE

OF THAILAND FOR MANY YEARS. WE VALUE THAILAND'S COOPERATION AND ITS FRIENDSHIP. IT IS OUR HOPE TO CONTINUE A CLOSE RELATIONSHIP.

"THE EYES OF THE WORLD HAVE FOCUSED ON THAILAND SINCE THE DRAMATIC DEVELOPMENTS LAST OCTOBER. I REGARD THAILAND'S EFFORTS TO BUILD CONSTITUTIONAL DEMOCRACY AS ONE OF THE MOST PROMISING DEVELOPMENTS IN ASIAN POLITICS TODAY. THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES WISH THAILAND EVERY SUCCESS IN THESE EFFORTS.

"MY VISIT HAS BEEN ALL TOO SHORT, BUT IT HAS NEVER-THELESS GIVEN ME AN OPPORTUNITY FOR FIRSTHAND IMPRESSIONS OF THAILAND, A NATION WHICH IS SO IMPORTANT TO THE STABILITY OF THE AREA. I RETURN TO WASHINGTON WITH A FAR BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THAILAND'S ASPIRATIONS AND WITH RENEWED DETERMINATION TO ASSIST THE ROYAL THAI GOVERNMENT, IN WAYS THAT ARE ACCEPTABLE TO THE THAI GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE, TO PROVIDE A BETTER LIFE FOR ITS PEOPLE."

2. THE SUGGESTED DINNER TOAST OF MARCH 5 IS AS FOLLOWS:
"YOUR EXCELLENCY, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

MRS. RUSH AND I ARE DELIGHTED TO BE HERE THIS EVENING. YOU ALL KNOW, I AM SURE, THAT OUR FRIENDSHIP WITH THAILAND GOES BACK FURTHER THAN OUR RELATIONS WITH ANY OTHER ASIAN COUNTRY. OVER MANY DECADES WE HAVE WORKED TOGETHER TO ADVANCE HUMAN VALUES WHICH ARE IMPORTANT TO BOTH OF US. WE VALUE YOUR COOPERATION AND WE TREASURE YOUR FRIENDSHIP. OLD FRIENDS ARE INDEED BEST FRIENDS. AS ONE OLD FRIEND TO ANOTHER, AND A NATION WHICH HAS BEEN OPERATING UNDER A DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM FOR NEARLY TWO CENTURIES, THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES WISH THEIR THAI FRIENDS EVERY SUCCESS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF A DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM WHICH IS COMPATIBLE WITH THE CULTURE AND TRADITIONS OF THIS GREAT NATION. ON THAT NOTE MAY I ASK YOU ALL TO JOIN ME IN A TOAST TO HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF THAILAND. TO THE KING!"

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